(2) Has any principle been followed in filling up the said vacancies, and, if so, what ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) It is not usual for the clerks in the departments to apply for promotions. A statement* of applicants who are teachers in the department is laid on the table. In regard to applications received from outsiders, the Government do not propose to call for the information as the time and labour involved in the preparation of the statement will be out of all proportion to its utility. The statement† required by the member in respect of persons appointed is laid on the table.

(2) Yes. In filling up the vacancies, due consideration was given to seniority and merit.

Allegations against Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah.

132. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether petitions regarding the official irregularities of Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah, Sub-Division Officer, East Sub-Division, Trivandrum, were received from the contractors of that Sub-Division numbering about thirty-two ;

(*b*) whether any enquiry was instituted into this matter; if so, with what result and if not, why not;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that these contractors complained that Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah demanded 5 per cent. commission from them, and, if so, whether the Government made any enquiry as to the truth of such allegation; if not, why not ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that some contractors personally represented their grievances, and particularly about the commission which Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah demanded from them, to the Chief Secretary to Government ;

(*e*) (i) whether it is not a fact that Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai of the Neyyattinkara constituency brought to the notice of the Government in his representation made at the 22nd session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly the official irregularities of this officer towards the contractors; and

(ii) whether any action was taken on this representation, and, if so, with what result ;

(*f*) whether these contractors have represented their grievances to the Chief Engineer;

(*g*) (i) whether the Chief Engineer got the explanation of Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah :

(ii) whether he sought for the opinion and the remarks of the Executive Engineer, his immediate superior;

(iii) if so, whether the Government will lay on the table the explanation of Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah and also the remarks of the Executive Engineer ; and

* *Vide* Appendix VIII A.—page 350. †*Vide* Appendix VIII B.—page 351.

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[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

(iv) if not, why the Chief Engineer failed to do so; and

(*h*) whether the contractors complained to the Government that the Chief Engineer was shielding his subordinate, Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Petitions alleging certain official irregularities against Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah, Sub-Division Officer, East Sub-Division, have been received from some of the contractors of that Sub-Division.

(*b*) Yes; the Chief Engineer's report of enquiry has been received and it is under the consideration of the Government.

(*c*) There is an allegation to this effect in a petition sent by four of the contractors. An enquiry has been made by the Chief Engineer.

(*d*) The Government are not in a position to say who all visited the Chief Secretary to Government, when and on what business.

(*e*) (i) Yes.

(ii) The member is referred to the answer to part (*b*).

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) (i) Yes.

(ii) The answer is in the negative.

(iii) The reports of heads of departments about the conduct of their subordinates are confidential.

(iv) The Chief Engineer says that he thought that it was not necessary in this particular case.

(*h*) Yes; the petition contains such an allegation.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the date on which the contractor presented his petition?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 29th January 1926.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): So it is almost eleven months?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the date of the enquiry by the Chief Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is under correspondence.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is enough if I know the approximate date or how many months after the petition was presented. I will be satisfied if I am given the date on which the Chief Engineer forwarded his enquiry to the Government.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): 18th July 1926.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What was the reason for delaying the petition wherein was alleged that the officer was asking bribes?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It requires time to make enquiries.

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MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did contractors present a petition to the Chief Engineer before they presented the petition to the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That information is given in the answer to part (*a*).

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Did he make any enquiry into the petition?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May have.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the Chief Engineer made the enquiry only after the petition presented to the Government was forwarded to him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A detailed enquiry was made only after that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has he made any enquiry before that?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He did not make a formal enquiry, but he ascertained about the genuineness of the allegations mentioned in the petition.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many petitions were presented to the Chief Engineer and to the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got that information.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not the duty of the Chief Engineer, when contractors allege that an officer is asking a commission of 5 per cent., to institute an enquiry immediately and to find out the truth of their statements?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was asserted in the petition to the Government by four people, and, on that, assertion communication was sent to the Chief Engineer and then the enquiry was made.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that the same facts were represented in the petition given to the Chief Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That was given to him. I do not know the contents of that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry whether they have presented a petition stating that the Sub-Division Officer Mr. G. V. Subrahmanya Aiyah demanded 5 per cent. commission on their bills? In that case, is it not the duty of the Government to institute an enquiry immediately and find out the fact?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is not necessary, because the same thing is alleged in the petition sent to the Government and that has been enquired into.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what is the result of the enquiry?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He has sent a report to the Government and that is under consideration.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I did not quite hear the last portion. Was it 'under consideration' or 'untrue'?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Under consideration.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether the contractors jointly presented themselves before the Chief Secretary and represented the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) That is answered here. I cannot remember all those who come to see me, at what time or what representations they make.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): When the contractors presented a petition to the Chief Engineer, did the Chief Engineer ask for any report from the Executive Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That question has been answered; the answer is in the negative.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the reason why he has not done so? The Executive Engineer is directly over the Sub-Division Officer and as such is he not the proper person who may be in the know of things?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The head of the department has the power to make the enquiry direct as regards any of his subordinates and moreover it is a personal matter.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Has the Chief Engineer made any reference to the Executive Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He has called for certain papers and records and I do not know what further information he has asked for.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Do the Government know that there is always a tug of war between the Executive Engineer and the Sub-Division Officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there not reports against the Sub-Division Officer by the Executive Engineer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government are not in possession of any such reports.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that almost all the Executive Engineers have remarked against this Sub-Division Officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government have no records to say yes or no in reply to that question.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are the Government aware that there were several cases against this Sub-Division Officer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

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MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Are they not aware that there was a charge against this Sub-Division Officer in connection with the iron girders for the Kuzhitturai bridge?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not think it arises as a supplementary question.

Deputy Registrar, High Court.

133. **MR. M. N. PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the date on which Mr. Kuppuswami Aiyar, who was Deputy Registrar, High Court, was appointed permanently as a Munsiff ;

(*b*) the date on which Mr. N. Narayana Aiyar was recommended by the Chief Justice to be appointed as Deputy Registrar ;

(*c*) the date on which Mr. Chatfield left Trivandrum on leave ;

(*d*) whether the Salaries Committee did not recommend the abolition of one of the two posts, namely, those of the Deputy Registrar and the Manager of the High Court ; and

(*e*) whether the Officiating Chief Justice recommended to the Government that the Deputy Registrar's place could be dispensed with ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) of question No. 53.

(*b*) 23rd April 1926.

(*c*) The Government have no information. Mr. Chatfield was granted leave from the 7th June 1926, with permission to prefix the midsummer vacation of 1926.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*). The Ag. Chief Justice suggested the abolition of the post of Deputy Registrar and the creation simultaneously of a Head Accountant on Rs. 75-5-100, a clerk on Rs. 40-5/2-70 and an attender on Rs. 15-1-18 in the High Court and also the revision of the pay of the existing attender of the office from Rs. 15 to Rs. 16-1-20; but, subsequently, he modified his recommendations and proposed that the filling of the post might be held in abeyance for three months.

Appointments created and abolished between 1920 and 1925.

134. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*) : (1) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the new appointments created during 1920-25 carrying a pay of Rs. 50 and upwards, with the pay for each ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have abolished any such post?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (1) and (2) Two statements*—one showing the new appointments created during the last five years (1097-1101) carrying a pay of Rs. 50 and above and the other showing the appointments abolished during the same period—are laid on the table.

* *Vide* Appendices IX A and IX B—pages 352 to 357.

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